
V. REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Nobuyuki (Japan 10-272860). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nobuyuki teaches a sheet-like blanket for printing that includes a compressive layer and a surface elastic layer provided on a sheet base. An elongation preventing layer is formed between the compressive layer and the surface elastic layer.

Claim 1 is directed to a blanket for printing that includes a supporting layer formed on an underside of a surface layer which is to be a printing surface with warps of a woven fabric constituting the supporting layer and including a vinylon yarn which is a spun yarn spun by a wet solvent cooling gel spinning method. Claim 1 recites that the supporting layer and the underside of the surface layer are in face-to-face contact with each other.

In Nobuyuki's invention, a member which is disposed under a surface layer 17 is a layer 16 which stops being extended, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. This elongation stop layer 16 is obtained by carrying out uniform distribution of a staple fiber 16b in elastic matter 16a, and it is not concerned with a supporting layer of the present invention, because the elongation stop layer 16 obtained by solidifying the staple fiber 16b is not a woven cloth, and a warp and a weft is not considered. Therefore, Nobuyuki's Invention does not suggest the constitution of the present invention. The supporting layer of the present invention corresponds to a reinforcement cloth 15 of Nobuyuki's invention. The warp of the reinforcement cloth 15 is not described at all.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest a supporting layer formed on an underside of a surface layer with warps of a woven fabric constituting the supporting layer and including a vinylon yarn which is a spun yarn spun by a wet solvent cooling gel spinning method. Further, in conjunction therewith, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest a supporting layer and an underside of a surface layer are in face-to-face contact with each other. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such

combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 6-12 also include features not shown in the applied art.

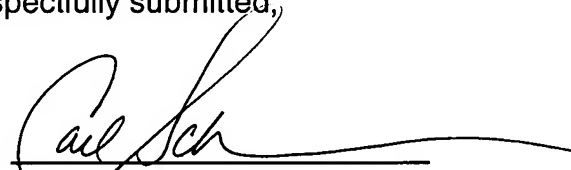
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 22, 2003

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